

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

1           10. (Currently amended) A vibratable aperture plate comprising:  
2           a plate body having a top surface, a bottom surface, and a plurality of apertures  
3           extending from the top surface to the bottom surface, wherein each aperture is defined by a  
4           tapered portion which tapers inward from the bottom surface toward the top surface and a flared  
5           portion that extends from the top surface toward the bottom surface and that flares away from the  
6           tapered portion, and wherein the flared portion and the tapered portion have the same share an  
7           axis of symmetry such that when a liquid is supplied to the bottom surface and the aperture plate  
8           is vibrated, liquid droplets are ejected through the flared portion, wherein the plate body is  
9           electroformed to produce the apertures, and wherein the tapered portion at an intersection  
10           with the flared portion has a size in the range from about 1 micron to about 10 microns.

1           11. (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the plate body is  
2           constructed from materials selected from a group consisting of palladium, palladium nickel and  
3           palladium alloys.

1           12. (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the plate body  
2           includes a portion that is dome shaped in geometry.

1           13. (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the plate body has a  
2           thickness in the range from about 20 microns to about 70 microns.

1           14. (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the apertures have an  
2           exit angle that is in the range from about 41° to about 49°.

Claims 15-30 (canceled).

1           31. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ **vibratable** aperture plate comprising:  
2           a plate body having a top surface, a bottom surface, and a plurality of apertures  
3           extending from the top surface to the bottom surface, wherein the apertures each include an  
4           upper portion and a lower portion, wherein the lower portion extends upwardly from the bottom  
5           surface and is generally concave in geometry, and wherein the upper portion is tapered in a  
6           direction from the top surface to the bottom surface and intersects **at an intersection** with the  
7           lower portion which flares outward such that when a liquid is supplied to the top surface and the  
8           aperture plate is vibrated, liquid passes through the upper portion and is ejected through the  
9           lower portion as liquid droplets, **wherein the plate body is electroformed to produce the**  
10           **apertures, and wherein the upper portion at the intersection has a size in the range from**  
11           **about 1 micron to about 10 microns.**

1           32. (Currently amended) An aperture plate as in claim 31, wherein upper  
2           portion has an angle of taper that is in the range from about 30° to about 60° at the intersection  
3           with the lower portion, ~~and a diameter that is in the range from about 1 micron to about 10~~  
4           ~~microns at the intersection with the lower portion.~~

1           33. (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 32, wherein the lower portion has  
2           a diameter at the lower surface that is in the range from about 20 microns to about 200 microns, a  
3           height in the range from about 4 microns to about 20 microns.

1           34. (Currently amended) An aperture plate as in claim 31, wherein the bottom  
2           surface is adapted to receive a liquid, and wherein the plate body is vibratable to eject liquid  
3           droplets from the ~~front~~ **top** surface.

Claims 35-36 (canceled).

1           37. (Amended) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the flared portion  
2           has a height that is approximately one-third of the thickness of the plate body.

1                   38. (Previously added) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the plate  
2   body has a thickness of at least about 20 microns.